

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 5, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Meditation at the Cross”

A. Whitworth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXHORTATION

Trusting in God's mercy, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to contend against all evil and resist everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to take up the disciplines of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, charity and works of love, as together we are strengthened and renewed by God's Word and Sacraments.

(Silence for self-reflection)

CONFESSION

Let us now make confession:

Almighty God, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve punishment. But I am sorry for them, repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things we do on this day may please him, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

1. Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer. We
2. Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin. Pour
3. Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part. Re -

5
come to hear your li - ving word; it saves us from de - spair.
out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM GENESIS

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

(Genesis 12:1-4a)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121 (read responsively)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD himself watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

⁶**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

⁸**The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

A READING FROM ROMANS

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

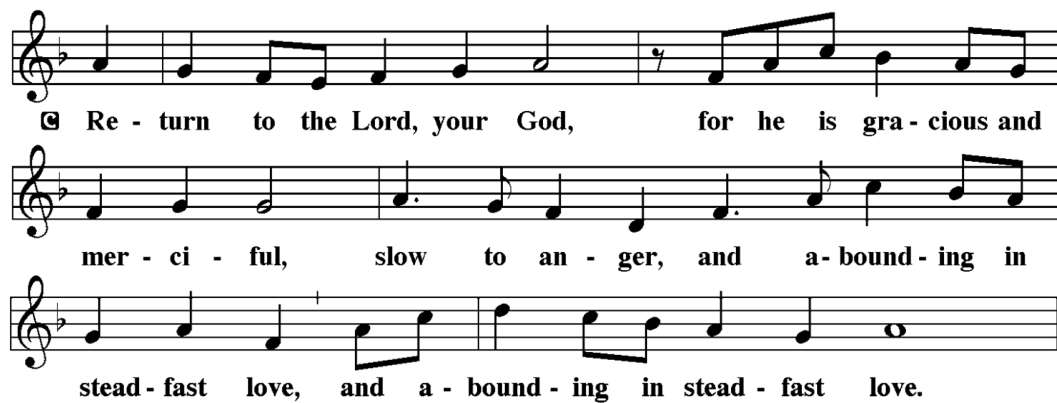
¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

(Romans 4:1-5, 13-17)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

(John 3:1-17)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”

[See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (read in unison)

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Teach us to rely on your willingness to forgive us and help us to daily pray with joyful expectation. Abide with those who struggle to believe and help them to follow in your path. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Raise up church leaders who will love and protect your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Breathe new life into our home on earth. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your good creation and inspire us to care for it. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression and strengthening international organizations that promote peace and harmony. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Bring comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We especially pray for the nation of Ukraine and everyone on our prayer list. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Bless the young people in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Strengthen our ministries for children and youth. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their faithful witness to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00)

“Trumpet Tune”

R. Lasky

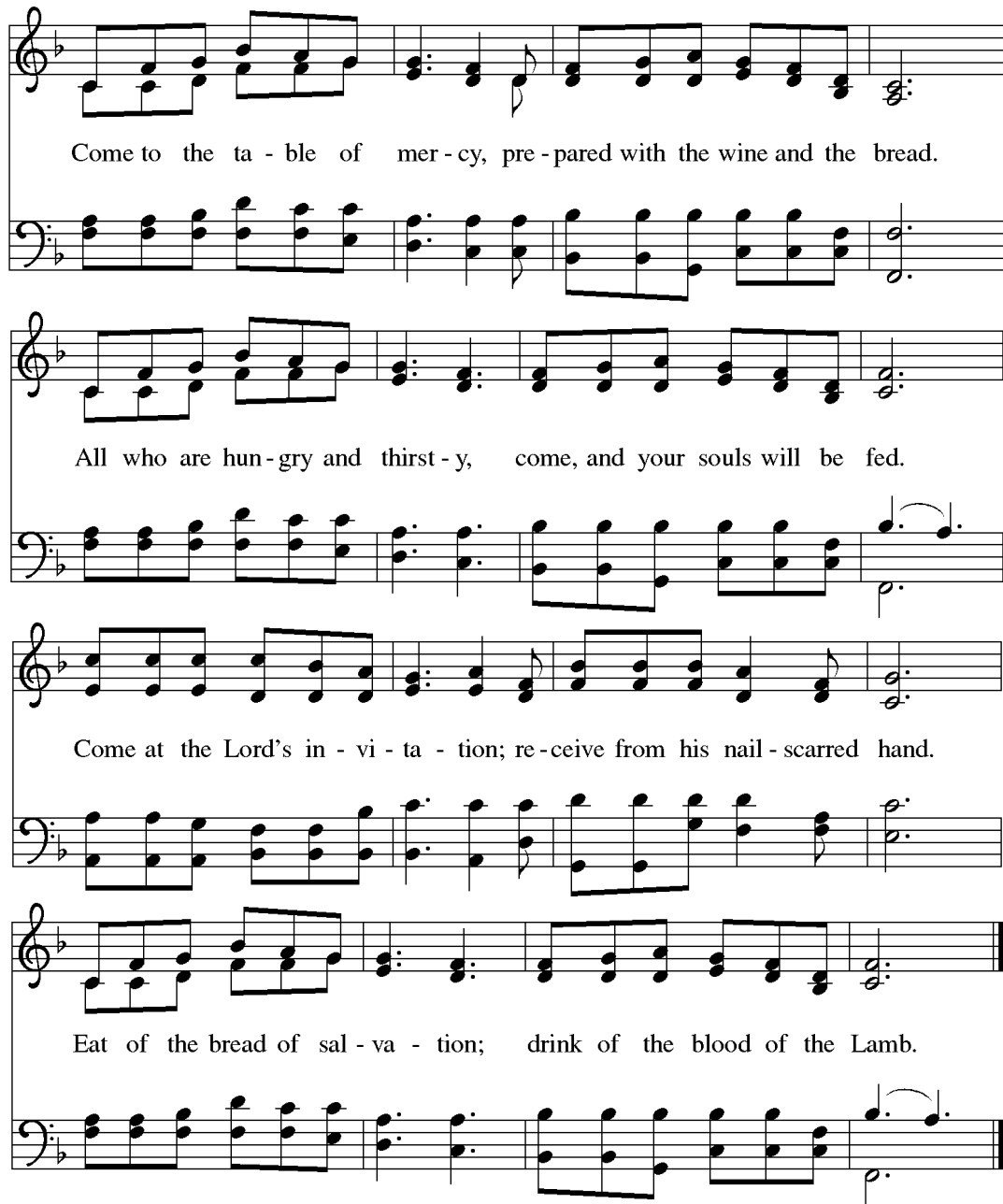
ANTHEM (10:30)

“Once Upon a Tree”*

P. Choplin

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Come to the Table”



The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread. All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed. Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand. Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb." The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and dynamic markings.

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us with these gifts which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, —

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho-

san-na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

BLESSING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (read in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

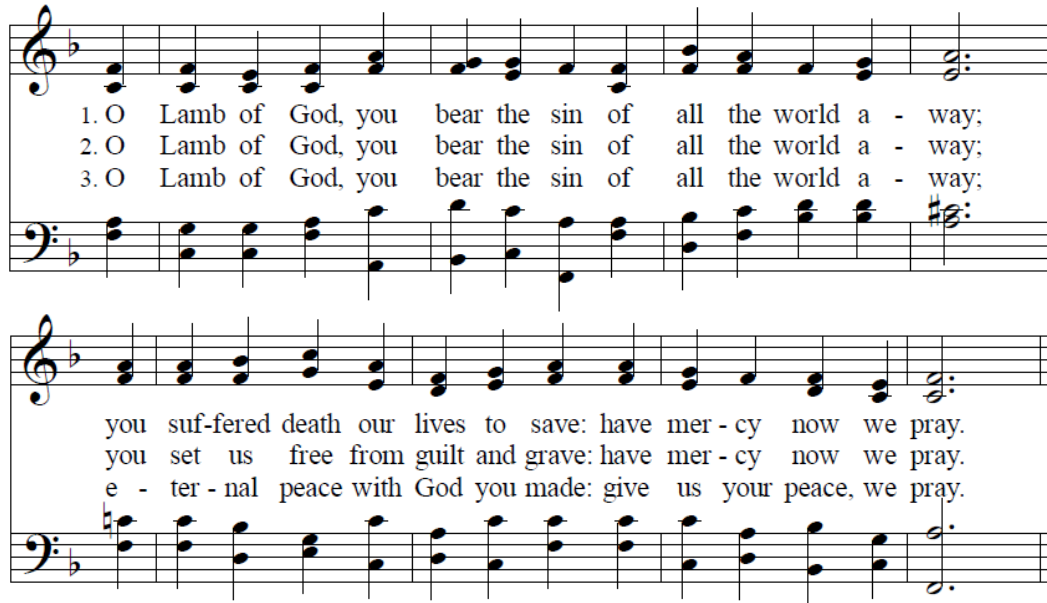
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**O Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament as they sit in their pew.

AGNUS DEI



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and as a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Blessed Assurance” [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “Chorus in A Minor” C. Demorest

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SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/5/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Tina Butler; LECTOR: Sarah Eger

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Dave Krewson

ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/12/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Carl Heintzelman; LECTOR: Jeff Ritschel

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Reier

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Diane Brobst, and Marlene Eidam

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 5	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, March 6	6:30 PM	Property
Tuesday, March 7	6:30 PM	Evangelism
Wednesday, March 8	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, March 10	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Landingville
Saturday, March 11	5:30 PM	Worship
		Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday
Sunday, March 12		Deadline for Easter Flower orders
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion\
	10:30 AM	Sunday School

Introduction to the Day: In today’s gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font, we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God’s love for all the world.

Altar flowers are presented in loving memory of my mom, Josephine Rohrer, by her daughter, Joanne Emerich.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of Russell and Rachel Zehner by Sonny and Connie Teter.

***Once Upon a Tree** is presented in honor of Justin McClure by the Worship & Music Committee. (2015)

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Pastor Mike continues his Midweek Lenten services entitled, “Gathered Around the Cross” throughout the month of March at 7 p.m. Please join us on Wednesday evenings and invite your family or friends to join us.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children ages 1 to 10 years old continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. **Please join us next Sunday, March 12, for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship.** You can also call, text, or email Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer at 570-394-3522 (cell) or swoodring86@hotmail.com.

WELCA NEWS

WELCA will next meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 1:00 p.m. at church. The next In-Gathering offering will be received at the May meeting and has been designated for Red Creek Wildlife Center.

The women of St. Paul's will also host a WELCA Schuylkill County Spring Cluster event on Saturday, April 29. All women of St. Paul's are automatically a member of this group. Information and registration are available on the WELCA bulletin board. More information will be in the March newsletter. Sign-up sheets have been placed on the table near the bulletin board. Your volunteering of food items, beverages or time will be greatly appreciated.

Easter Flower Orders

Please detach lower portion of this form and place it along with your payment in the offering basket located in the Gathering Room, or return it to the church by U.S. Mail.

Deadline: Sunday, March 12, 2023

Please **“PRINT”** all necessary information!

Your name: _____

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$9.50	H/M _____
Regular-sized Daffodils	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
Hydrangeas (Pink)	_____ X	\$17.00	H/M _____

[NOTE: H = In Honor of *or* M = In Memory of]

TOTAL \$ _____ CASH CHECK # _____

If more space is needed for dedications, please attach another sheet.

GATHERING HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNED

Volunteers are needed for STiC's up-coming Earth Day event scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. A description of events and sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Room.

For more information, please contact Sue Reier at 570-617-3741.

EVANGELISM

Each week our Evangelism Committee provides “greeting” cards to be signed and sent to members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., military personnel, and college students.) These cards are on a table in the back of the church. Please remember to sign our card(s) before leaving church today.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

CRAFTERS' GUILD

The Crafters' Guild of St. Paul's will gather on Saturday, March 25th from 3 to 5 p.m. at the home of Kristin Durkee, 1097 Grove Street, Orwigsburg, PA. All crafters or people interested in learning a craft are welcome!

Please call Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066) or Amy Dewald (570-449-4816), if you are interested in this new group.

COMMUNION HYMN “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

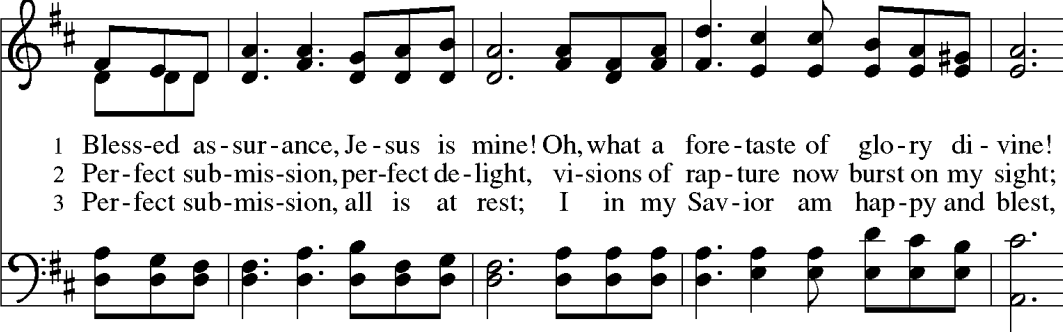
Daylight Savings Time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Set your clocks (or “spring”) ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. Please use this “change” as an opportunity to check the batteries in your home’s smoke detectors, too. Fresh batteries could save your life!

ANNUAL REPORT

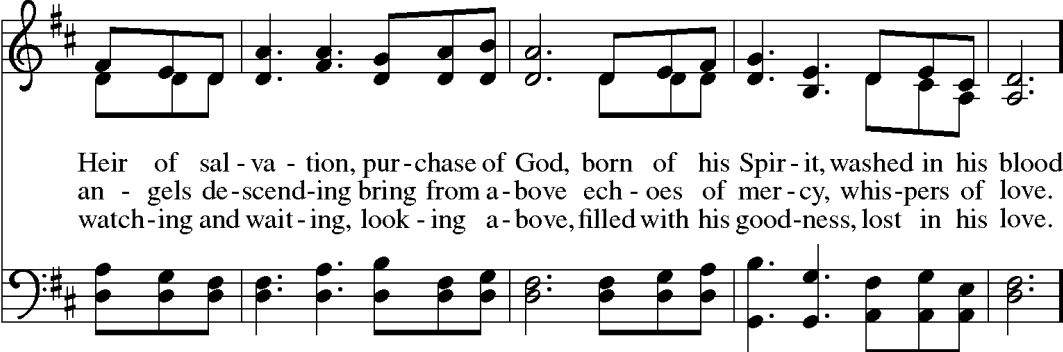
Our 2022 Annual Report is still available to church members. If you have not yet picked up a copy at church, you may request one by calling the church office at (570) 366-2316. Please leave your name, address, and phone number, and we will gladly mail one to you!

SENDING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

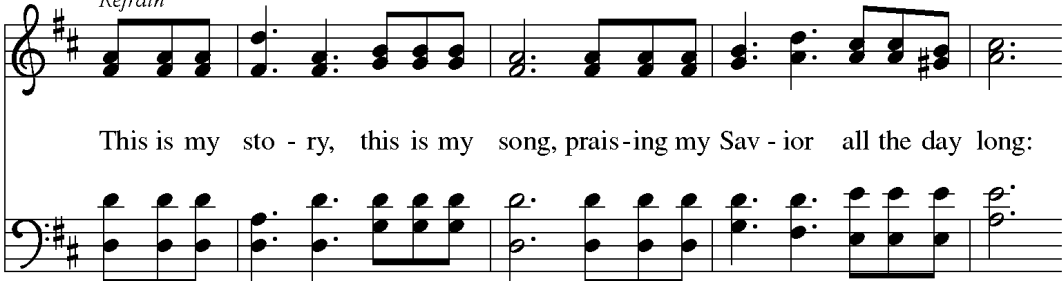


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our second annual Easter Egg-stravaganza is slated for Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please join us in the Gathering Room any time during the event for crafts, games, and snacks. The Easter Bunny may even hop by! Children up to age 10 are welcome to come. A sign-up sheet for volunteers and “goodies” is located in the Gathering Room.

For additional information please contact Sarah Eger, 570-394-3522 (cell), or swoodring86@hotmail.com.